

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

February 2016

## Welcome!

February is Heart Health Month and our Health Department is proud to participate in American Heart Month. This is a perfect time to make healthy changes to lower your risk of developing heart disease. Click [here](#) for tips to lower your risk. Also, **February 14-20** is Heart Failure Awareness Week. Learn about our Five+Five.Alive. Campaign, get trained in CPR, spread the word and help save a life! Click [here](#) for a list of upcoming CPR classes or email [handsonlycpr@hcdfrs.org](mailto:handsonlycpr@hcdfrs.org). I will be posting updates as they are available to my social media pages and invite you to [Like Me](#) on Facebook and [Follow Me](#) on Twitter.

As always, if you have any questions or feedback on how we build a better Howard County together, I invite you to call my office at **410-313-2001** or [email](#) me.

If you'd like to register to receive my newsletter, [email me](#) with "subscribe" in the subject line. If you would like to be removed, place "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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## Community Conversation—Storm Response

I've appreciated your patience as we recovered from our recent weather event. During this time, we had some storm response challenges, as was evidenced by your calls and emails. I've shared in your frustration but also extend my overall gratitude to all our hardworking DPW crews and contractors that worked feverishly to clear our roads and respond to concerns. There is opportunity to learn and improve. In the spirit of moving forward and continuing our Community Conversation, I invite you to [email](#) me and share any suggestions for improvements. Once I compile a list, I will coordinate with DPW and our County Executive to we can improve during future weather events.



## Got Potholes?

Have you noticed potholes in your community or within our County? As we continue to work through weather related challenges, I've heard from concerned residents regarding an increase in potholes. Often times, citizens are unsure who to contact and in my effort to partner with you and empower you to help address potholes, here are the tools you'll need to report these incidents with the appropriate agency.

First and foremost, you must note whether the road in question is a state or county road. All numbered roads are state and therefore maintained by State Highway Administration. All others are likely County roads and maintained by our Department of Public Works. However, you may live on a private road. If so and in that circumstance, maintenance falls to your HOA or homeowners living on that street. Unsure whether your road is public or private? Call **410-313-7450**.



**State Highway Administration** (State Roads only)

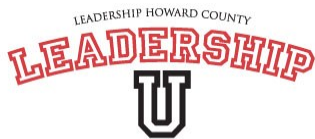
Call: 410-531-5533 or 1-800-635-5119

**Howard County Department of Public Works** (County Roads only—not private roads)

Call: 410-313-7450 or email [highways@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:highways@howardcountymd.gov)

Report Online: Download Tell HoCo app (SeeClickFix) and report incidents real-time or [online](#)

## Leadership U 2016 Accepting Applications



Calling all students - Leadership U is open to high school sophomores (or equivalents who are home-schooled) who live in Howard County. Students may attend public or private school, or be home-schooled. Students must have a desire to learn about their community and a willingness to volunteer. LU is a great way to meet new people from different schools who share similar interests in knowing more about their community, and who want to make a positive impact.

Those interested are invited to attend a FREE information session to learn more: and **March 3** (Miller Library). Sessions are 7-8pm. Tuition is \$875; however [financial assistance](#) is available. Application deadline is **March 17, 2016**. For more details, go [online](#).

## Long Reach Watershed Committee

The Village of Long Reach is creating a resident advisory committee to enhance watershed awareness and to educate residents about opportunities to use best management practices in our community. The committee will meet quarterly and sponsor events for residents to develop a community understanding of the dynamics of storm water runoff, what homeowners can do to slow the flow, and more.

Interested in joining this committee? Email a statement of intent and a resume to Rita at [info@longreach.org](mailto:info@longreach.org) or call **410-730-8113** for more information.

## Preschool and Child Care Information Fair

Parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel—mark your calendars for the 2016 Preschool & Child Care Information Fair “Children On Board” on **February 13, 2016 1-4pm** at **Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane** in Clarksville. This annual Fair offers a “one stop shop” for information on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as well as an opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that offer programs and services to Howard County’s young children will also be on hand to provide information. Go [online](#) for more information, call **410-313-1940** or email [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov).



## All-Star Day Open House

It's the [NBA's All-Star](#) weekend and Columbia Association (CA) has something special for our own all-stars—YOU! Everyone (members, guests, the public) is invited to select CA sport and fitness locations all day on **February 13, 2016** for special fitness classes, demonstrations, activities, giveaways and more. Participating locations include: Columbia Athletic Club (5425 Beaverkill Rd, 410-730-6744); Columbia Gym (6151 Daylong Ln, 410-531-0800); Columbia Ice Rink (5876 Thunder Hill Road, 410-730-0321); Columbia Swim Center (10400 Cross Fox Ln, 410-730-7000); Fairways Hill Golf Club (5100 Columbia Rd, 410-730-1112); Haven on the Lake (10275 Little Patuxent Pkwy, 410-715-3020); Hobbit's Glen Golf Club (11130 Willowbottom Dr, 410-730-5980); and Supreme Sports Club (7080 Deepage Dr, 410-381-5355).

Each member is automatically entered into a prize drawing upon check-in. Each guest that visits will be entered to win a 30-day Package Plan Plus Membership. KidsSpace will be free for any non-KidsSpace members at the three fitness clubs **9am-4:30pm**. Reservations must be made for children 18 months and younger. Call any participating location for more information.

## Happy Presidents' Day— Government Closings

Howard County Government offices, courts, senior centers and animal shelter will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day **Monday, February 15, 2016**. Regular trash, recycling and food scrap services will be in effect and the Alpha Ridge Landfill (8am-4pm) will be open. While county parks, community centers and facilities will be open, the Robinson Nature Center will be closed. In addition, County historic sites are all closed for the season and will not reopen until April. [RTA](#) will operate on a regular weekday schedule; for more information call **1-800-270-9552**. All parking regulations and fees will be in effect.

As always, the 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24hrs/day, 7 days/week. For emergencies, call **9-1-1**; for non-emergencies, call **410-313-2200**.

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## Presidents' Day at Pfeiffer's Corner Schoolhouse

On this holiday, celebrate the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln by learning about these great leaders, their families and how they influenced our nation. Children, grades 3-6 are invited to join us on **Monday, February 15, 2016 10am-12pm** at **Pfeiffer's Corner Schoolhouse, 6109 Rockburn Branch Park Rd** in Elkridge. They will hear stories, play games and enjoy hands-on activities in this one-room schoolhouse built in the 1880s. For more information, contact **Jaimie Wilder** at **410-313-0419** or email **jwil-**

### High Performance Tax Credit

Apply TODAY!

With the support of my Council colleagues, we were able to pass legislation to promote green energy in Howard County buildings. Specifically, the bill created a tax credit, due by April 1 prior to the first taxable year for which the credit is sought. It is applicable for new construction and for renovation of existing buildings. Click [here](#) to apply TODAY or learn more!

## Medicare 102

Interested in learning more information about Medicare? Take advantage of Medicare 102: Why Medicare Isn't Enough, held on **Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1-2:30pm** at the **Ellicott City 50+ Center, 9401 Frederick Rd.** in Ellicott City. Sponsored by our Howard County Office on Aging's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), participants will learn about Medicare Part C/Health Plans and how Medicare Supplement Policies (Medigap Plans) can help cover out of pocket expenses. For more details, contact **Barbara Albert** at **410-313-7391**.

## 11th Annual Black Saga Competition

The [11th annual Howard County Middle School Black Saga Competition](#) will be held on **Saturday, February 20, 2016** at the **Homewood Center, 10914 Clarksville Pike** in Ellicott City. Students from participating Howard County middle schools compete in this academic challenge on African American history. After months of broadening their knowledge of African American history, the teams will compete against each other in a contest of their knowledge and skill. Registration begins at 8:30am. The opening ceremony starts at 9:15am and competition concludes with an awards presentation at 11:30am.

All of the teams will move forward to the state competition, to be held in March at Towson University, where they will compete against students from other school systems.

## CA Information Session on CCR Village Elections

Would you like to give back to the Columbia village you live in? Have an interest in public service and lend your voice to Columbia Association's Board of Director's? CA is hosting two information sessions for those interested in running for election as your village's Columbia Council Representative (CCR). Sessions will be held at **CA Headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court, Suite 100** in Columbia on: **Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 10am** or **Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7pm**. For more details, go [online](#).

## Earth Forum of Howard County

Where Does Climate Change Hits the Hardest? In impoverished mountain areas of Central America, according to Dr. Gaye Burpee of Catholic Relief Services. Come out to the Earth Forum of Howard County on **February 21, 2016 2-4:30pm** and listen to her stories of how and why climate change daily threatens the lives of rural people in regions that are highly vulnerable to extreme weather events. This event is open to the public and FREE to all. It will be held at **The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, 9325 Presbyterian Circle** in Columbia. For questions, call **410-730-3545** or email [earthforum@firstpreshc.org](mailto:earthforum@firstpreshc.org).

## Proposed CA Tennis Facility in Long Reach

The Columbia Association (CA) will be presenting information on a proposed tennis facility that will be built in Long Reach at the Long Reach Village Board meeting on **Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7pm** at Stonehouse. Residents are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to listen to the proposed plans for the Long Reach community. For details, call **410-730-8113**.

## OMCA Information Session on Village Elections

Are you interested in serving on the Oakland Mills Community Association Board or as the Columbia Council Representative to Columbia Association for Oakland Mills? Come out to an information session hosted on **February 23, 2016 6:30-7pm** by OMCA, enjoy refreshments and conversation and learn more about serving on the Board or as CCR. This is a fantastic opportunity to lend your voice as a community advocate and give back to the neighborhood. For details, contact **Sandy Cederbaum** at **410-730-4610** or email [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org).

## World Language Cafe



Columbia Association's World Languages Café began in early 2013 as a way to provide great evenings of conversations and culture in more than a dozen different languages. The café will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the 50+ Center at East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Owen Brown. Upcoming sessions are 7-9pm on: **February 23, March 22, April 26, May 24 and June 28.**

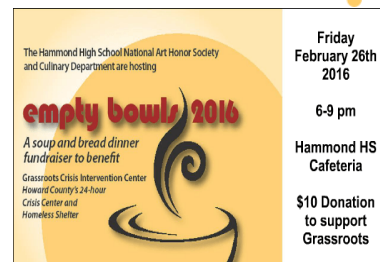
Languages include: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Language tables are hosted by native speakers will facilitate conversations. Most people who attend already have some fluency in the language and can put sentences together; these gatherings are not grammar or vocabulary classes. For more information, email [International@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:International@ColumbiaAssociation.org) or call 410-715-3162.

## HCPSS Career Academy Expo

Did you know that by enrolling in one of the HCPSS Career Academies you can explore a career and have a chance to earn college credit and job-ready certifications while still in high school? Attend the [Career Academy Expo](#) on **Tuesday, February 23, 2016 7pm** at the Howard County Library East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way in to learn more about the Academy program that is right for you. Academies include: Architecture and Construction Management; Automotive Technology; Biotechnology; Accounting, Marketing and Finance; Culinary Sciences; Cyber Security; Engineering; Graphic Design and Animation; Health Professions; Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Hotel and Restaurant Management; Teaching and Child Development; and Career Research. No registration required.

## Empty Bowls 2016

The Hammond High School National Art Honor Society and Culinary Department are hosting [Empty Bowls 2016](#) on **Friday, February 26, 2016 6-9pm** at **Hammond HS Cafeteria**. This soup and bread dinner fundraiser benefits Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Howard County's 24-hour Crisis Center and Homeless Shelter. Admission is **\$10** (pay at the door), which includes a handmade ceramic bowl and all the soup and bread you can eat.. Everyone is welcome. Bring friends and family—the more the merrier!



## 3rd Annual Storytelling Event

Come out on **Friday, February 26, 2016** for the 3rd Annual Story Telling Event "Something's Happening Here" The Power of Storytelling: Sharing Stories for a Stronger Communities. Stories can encourage us, unite us, and help bring a community together. Join us for an afternoon workshop and/or evening of great stories. The Storytelling Workshop will be hosted 2-6pm and cost \$75/person. Working with a professional, Leigh Tillman, a native of Howard County, you will learn: elements of a good story; techniques of delivery; and more! Space is limited. Price includes a light dinner and admission to evening session. An evening of Local Stories will be held at 7pm and cost \$10/person. You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to listen to personal stories told by ten engaging Howard Countians. You'll have the chance to meet the storytellers, hear tales of local life, and enjoy the art of story telling. Doors open at 6:30pm. Register today [online](#) or call 410-465-8877.

## Evening in the Stacks



Join us for a fun-filled affair as HCLS celebrates all that is Maryland with a BLACK-EYED SUSAN BALL! Enjoy featured Chef and Author Jon Shields "*The Culinary Ambassador of the Chesapeake Bay*," live music by Junkyard Saints, bid on a multitude of silent auction items, sip on signature cocktails by The Wine Bin, and dancing with your friends and neighbors.

Cocktail attire. Black tie is optional. This event will be held **Saturday, February 27, 2016 7-11pm** at the Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center, 9421 Frederick Rd in Ellicott City. Tickets are \$140 and available [online](#). More details on this year's annual Evening in the Stacks are available [online](#).



## Black History Expo

Members of the public are invited to the [Black History Expo 2016](#), Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories. The Expo hosted on **Saturday, February 27, 2016 12-5pm** at **Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Rd** in Columbia will provide educational experiences that foster increased awareness, expanded knowledge and appreciation of African Americans who have made significant contributions to our history, society and culture. The free event will include exhibits, entertainment and vendors.

The Expo is sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council of Howard County, Howard County Branch of the NAACP, and the Howard County Public School System.

## Ms. Biz Mornings

Ms. Biz Mornings is a new, FREE networking group for women in business that meets on the 1st Tuesday morning of every month (8:30-10am) at a different local business location in the Columbia/Howard County area. The 2016 schedule has just been announced and is listed below. Check online as locations are subject to change. To contact one of the coordinators, call Lisa Stearns at 410-381-5777 or email [Lisa@LisaStearns.com](mailto:Lisa@LisaStearns.com) or Monique W-Jones at [WashingtonsKarateDojo@hotmail.com](mailto:WashingtonsKarateDojo@hotmail.com). Tickets are available [online](#).

Late arrivals always warmly welcomed! Bring a door prize if you'd like! LOOK FOR BLUE AND YELLOW MS BIZ SIGNS

<b>March 1</b>	CHANGED	Renatas Tasty Bites - 9350G Snowden River Pkwy Col
<b>April 5</b>		WKD Karate 4 Girls 9385 Gerwig Ln Columbia
<b>May 3</b>		Horse Spirit Arts Gallery - 8090 Main Street downtown EC
<b>June 7</b>		Sub Zero Wolf by Fretz 9204 Berger Rd Columbia
<b>July 5</b>		Gold Event Parties - Red Branch Rd. Columbia, MD
<b>August 2</b>		Life Dance Loft - 11200 Scaggsville Rd. #125 Laurel
<b>September 6</b>		Spiritual Spectra - Jen Garcia - 10440 Shaker Dr #103 Columbia
<b>October 4</b>		Perspectives Art & Design 8191 Main St., Ellicott City, MD 21043
<b>November 1</b>		Sacred Healing Hands 11155 Stratfield Ct. Marriottsville
<b>December 6</b>		Kelsey's Kloset 11200 Scaggsville Rd Laurel/Fulton

## Student Loan Forum

Know before you owe! To commemorate National Consumer Protection Week, the Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs and the Consumer Advisory Board is presenting a Student Loan Forum and Resource Fair on **Wednesday, March 2, 2016 7pm** at the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. Hear from a panel of local, state and federal experts who will answer questions about the student loan process, provide vital resource materials and offer one-on-one guidance. Are you preparing for college and need answers about the student loan process? Do you know how to evaluate various kinds of loans and repayment obligations? Do you understand how student loans can affect your ability to get future credit? Do you need help managing student loans you already have? Additional information and registration for this FREE event is available online. Call 410-313-6420 or email [consumer@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:consumer@howardcountymd.gov) for more details.

## Nominations Sought for Excellence in Programs for Children

Howard County is seeking nominees of people, programs and businesses that have made a positive impact on the lives of Howard County children for the 17th annual "Celebrating Successes for Children" awards program. It honors those who have made a difference and serve children in one of the following categories: Infants and Toddlers (0-3yrs); Preschool-Age (3-5yrs); Elementary-Age (K-5); Middle School-Age (Grades 6-8); High School-Age (Grades 9-12); Mixed-Age Group (person or program that works with children of different ages); Making a Difference Youth Award (an individual under age 18 who has made a difference in the community); Family-Friendly Business Award (Howard County Business—NOT child care—that stands out because of its policies or service to children and families).

While an individual nominee does not have to be a resident of Howard County, he or she must serve Howard County children. However, program or business nominees must be located in Howard County. Nominations are due by **Friday, March 4, 2016** and forms are available [online](#). You may also request one by calling 410-313-1940 or emailing [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov)

## Volunteer of the Year Nominees Sought

Howard County is now seeking nominations for its 2016 “Volunteer of the Year” Awards program. Sponsored by Howard County Government, the County Council, and the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County, this program recognizes individuals (youth and adults), non-profit organizations or governmental agencies, and for-profit organizations or community groups that have demonstrated commitment and dedication to our community. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, March 4, 2016**.

To qualify, nominees must either be residents of Howard County or do their volunteer work in the County. In addition, their volunteer efforts should have an impact on an individual or the community; for individual nominations, the nominated service must be performed outside the scope of the nominee’s paid employment.

Nomination forms are available online. Completed forms may be submitted via email to [voy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:voy@howardcountymd.gov); mailed to: Howard County Volunteer of the Year, Attn: Alexandra Bresani, Office of Public Information, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043; or faxed to 410-313-3390. Additionally, nominators may also submit up to two additional endorsements from other individuals or organizations familiar with the nominee’s volunteer contributions.

Award winners will have an engraved brick installed in the “Pathway to Excellence” at the County’s Troy Park at Elkridge. The pathway will feature bricks etched with the winners’ names and award, and be a part of one of Troy Park’s future development phases. For questions or more information, call **410-313-2023** or email [voy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:voy@howardcountymd.gov).

## 2016 Taste of Long Reach



Please join us for a fun evening of great food and beverages from our area restaurants and caterers during the Taste of Long Reach. This event will be held on **Friday, March 4, 2016 7-11pm** at **Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Ln in Clarksville**. It’s a great evening to mingle with the staff members, other parents and friends in the community. All are welcome but you must be 21 to attend!

Tickets are \$40 in advance; \$50 after February 24, 2016 and includes food tastings, door prize ticket, unlimited non-alcoholic beverage & three drink tickets. Cash Bar for additional beverages. Call **410-313-7117** for details or go [online](#) to purchase tickets.

## Renew. Rehab. Replace.

As Columbia nears its 50th birthday, what are the ways we can honor and build on our city’s past by keeping our communities attractive, livable and responsive to changes in how families live today? Come out to a great community session—**Renew. Rehab. Replace: New Strategies for Columbia’s Older Houses** on March 5, 2015 9:30am-12:30pm at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia. For



*Save The Date!*

RENEW, REHAB, REPLACE: NEW STRATEGIES FOR COLUMBIA'S OLDER HOUSES

## HCPSS Sponsored Parent Academy on Accessing Advanced-Level Courses

Learn valuable information about advanced –level course opportunities for students. Parents of children in kindergarten through Grade 12 are welcome to attend. Elementary, middle, and high school breakout sessions will be held. The Academy will be held on **Saturday, March 5, 2016 10am-12pm** at **Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Ln** in Columbia.

Please call **410-313-1598** in advance to arrange the following services: child care; limited transportation; and interpreting. More information is available [online](#).

## Silas Craft Collegians Dinner



Help us raise funds to provide scholarships for deserving students by joining us for a delicious, all you can eat Chinese food buffet. The Silas Craft Collegians Dinner will be held **March 7, 2016 5-8pm** at **Hunan Manor Restaurant, 7091 Deepage Drive** in Columbia. Come Hungry, Leave Fulfilled! Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased [online](#) or at the door. HCC student tickets are just \$15—purchase in person at the HCC Foundation Office (MH100).

Don’t miss the opportunity to support Silas Craft and win a special donated piece of jewelry from Pandora—the store in Columbia

## 2016 Baby Expo

Whether you're thinking about starting a family, have a brand new little one or are in the throws of toddler or preschooler fun, the Baby Expo will have something for you! Join us on **Saturday, March 12, 2016 10am-2pm**, at the Prenatal through Preschool Baby Expo held at the **Owen Brown Community Center**. The Expo is designed for individuals and families looking for information about programs and services for ages prenatal through preschool. Exhibitors will provide a variety of information. Anything from local mom's groups to baby clothing stores, and infant health and readiness for preschool. Speakers will be giving short information sessions about cloth diapering, breast feeding, car seat safety and other important topics.



Admission is FREE. For details, call **410-730-4610**.

## HCC's Annual Spring Job/Career Fair



Looking for employment? Come out and interact with local employers on **Friday, March 11, 2016 10am-1pm** at Howard Community College in the Burrill Galleria. This once a semester event is open to all job seekers, community members as well as students to meet company representatives! For more details including details on companies that have registered, click [here](#). If you have any questions, call **443-518-1340** or email [jobfair@howardcc.edu](mailto:jobfair@howardcc.edu).

## Village in Howard 1st Anniversary Celebration

Please join us on **March 12, 2016 at 2pm** at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center, 7246 Cradlerock Way in Columbia to celebrate the 1 year Anniversary of The Village in Howard with members and friends. Party with entertainment, delicious desserts, year in review, and fun! Please register before **March 5, 2016** [online](#) or by calling the office at **443-367-9043**.



## Soup'r Sundae



The Faith Community Partnership is proud to present Soup'r Sundae, a family event featuring soups prepared by area restaurants, as a fundraiser for Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center on **Sunday, March 13, 2016 11am-2pm** at Wilde Lake High School Cafeteria and Gymnasium, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

Admission is \$20 per adult and \$5 per child under 12 and includes unlimited soup from Howard County's BEST restaurants and all the ice cream you can eat! There will be hundreds of silent auction bargains, music and entertainment for children. Tickets are available [online](#) or by contacting [cathyvsmith@verizon.net](mailto:cathyvsmith@verizon.net). They will also be available at the door for cash and checks made payable to Grassroots. Proceeds benefit Grassroots, Howard County's 24-hour crisis intervention center and shelter for the homeless.

## 2nd Citizens' FY17 Citizen Budget Hearing

County Executive Kittleman will hold his 2<sup>nd</sup> Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY17 budget cycle on **Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7pm** in the Banneker Room at the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City.

Residents can sign up to speak [online](#) and from the same link, submit testimony; however, residents are reminded that

internet testimony is considered public information and, as such, subject to the Maryland Public Information Act. Residents who do not wish to sign-up online will still be able to sign-up in person on the night of the public hearing beginning at 6pm. Speakers must sign up individually, and one person may not sign-up for several testifiers. If you have any

questions or need additional accommodations to attend the Hearing, contact the Budget Office at **410-313-2077**.



## Choose Civility Poster and Video Contest



Students are invited to design a poster illustrating the theme of social responsibility. Use your imagination, creativity and artistic talent to show others why it's important to be a good digital citizen. Start by asking yourself: What does it mean to be a good digital citizen? Why is it important? How do you respect yourself and others, decide what to share, and choose which photos to post? What does it mean to think twice, post once? What's your digital footprint? Visit [Common Sense Media](#) or talk to your technology teacher or medial specialist for some ideas, then design a poster or create a video!

Groups or individual students in K-12 who live or attend school in Howard County are invited to submit entries. Entries are accepted through **March 25, 2016**. There will be awards for the top winners. For details, go [online](#) or call **410-730-0075** or email [monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org)

## Howard County GreenFest—Vendors Wanted

Howard County's annual **GreenFest**, back for its 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, will be held on **Saturday, April 16, 2016 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. While the theme for 2016 is "Buy Local, Eat Local, Be Local," **GreenFest** is open to all vendors and exhibitors that highlight environmentally conscious products, services, activities and opportunities for community involvement. Apply now to become a vendor and/or a sponsor to showcase your 'green' at this popular event!

Each exhibit space includes a 5' table and two chairs. Cost to non-profits is \$25 per space; cost to other entities, including commercial businesses is \$35 per space. An additional \$10 late fee will be charged to those who apply after **Friday, February 26**. Sponsorship opportunities for \$100 are also available. Vendor and sponsorship application is available on the **GreenFest** website at [www.hcgreenfest.org](http://www.hcgreenfest.org). For more information, contact **Alan Wilcom** at **410-313-6433** or email [awilcom@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:awilcom@howardcountymd.gov).

## Tips on Keeping Pipes From Freezing

With below freezing temperatures headed toward our region, particularly at night, our Bureau of Utilities is offering residents tips on how to keep pipes from freezing and potentially bursting. Water pipes located on or next to an outside wall are subjected to sub-freezing temperatures, as are pipes located in a garage or any other unheated building. To help combat this problem and reduce the probability of your pipes freezing, the County's Bureau of Utilities recommends:

- Wrap or insulate exposed pipes susceptible to low temperatures.
- Utilize other devices, such as heat tape, to help keep pipes from freezing.
- Leave hot and cold water dripping on nights when temperatures dip below 15°F.

Some pipes, such as those located in cabinets, may be situated against an outside wall, while they may be insulated, residents should leave cabinet doors open to allow heat in the room to keep pipes warm and prevent freezing. The Bureau also suggests:

- Turn off and drain outside hose bibs.
- Know where the main water cutoff valve is and how it works.
- Seal air leaks that allow icy blasts to reach pipes.
- For homes with crawl spaces, close outside air vents located in the foundation wall during extremely cold temperatures to keep exposed plumbing from freezing.
- If you have a programmable thermostat, consider leaving it at a constant temperature, never below 45°F. If you are going on an extended vacation, set your thermostat to at least 45°F or above.

Also, to help keep county fire hydrants from freezing and help prevent street flooding, residents are asked to shovel out fire hydrants in their neighborhood that are covered or obstructed by snow, as well as keeping obstacles, such as snow, away from storm water runoff drains.

If your pipes do freeze, the Bureau recommends opening the cold water faucet nearest the frozen pipe to relieve pressure. Then, use a gentle heat source, such as a light bulb or hair dryer, to thaw the pipe. **DO NOT** use an open flame.

Residents are further reminded if you lose water or experience sewage back-up in your home, call the County first to determine if there is a break in the water main or a blockage in the sewer main beyond your property. During regular business hours, residents are instructed to call the Bureau of Utilities at **410-313-4900**. After hours and on the weekends, call Central Dispatch at **410-313-2929** which will then notify a county utility worker.



## Downtown Columbia Eats App

We're serving up a different way of dining which makes going out to dinner an extra treat in Downtown Columbia. [Downtown Columbia Eats!](#) is a loyalty program for participating restaurants and eateries in Downtown Columbia including Petit Louis Bistro, Union Jack's, Seasons 52, Whole Foods, and the Nordstrom Café. The app is powered by Loyaltap and is available to download for FREE via the Apple Store and Google Play. Download today and begin saving.



## World Food Passport



The World Food Passport program celebrates the wide range of restaurants, cuisine, and culture available in Howard County. After eating at a participating restaurant, diners can request one stamp in their passport. Once passport holders have one stamp in each of the six categories, they can enter a drawing to win a \$25 gift certificate. Drawings will be held on **March 31, 2016**. For more information, [go online](#). Or contact Laura Smit at 410-715-3162 or [International@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:International@ColumbiaAssociation.org).

## CA's 2016 Sister Cities Exchange Program

Next summer, experience a different culture and travel abroad! The Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange Program offers a once-in-a-lifetime international opportunity for Howard County high school students studying Spanish or French where teens can experience what it's like to be a teen in one of Columbia's sister cities in Europe—Tres Cantos, Spain, and Cergy-Pontoise, France. Participants spend approximately two weeks of cultural and linguistic immersion during the month of July in one of those cities.

The program fee is \$700/Columbia residents and \$850/non-Columbia residents, excluding airline tickets which can range \$1,200-\$1,500/participant. Applicants must have also completed level three of French or Spanish by the end of the current academic year.

## Medication Disposal Boxes

Did you know you can dispose of your unwanted medication any day of the year at one of our three permanent drop off locations? They're open daily year round! The Howard County Police Department and HC DrugFree have provided the community with three permanent medication disposal boxes in an effort to assist residents in disposing of unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications safely and anonymously. Boxes are maintained by the police and located at the Northern District Station (3410 Court House Drive in Ellicott City), Southern District Station (11226 Scaggsville Road in Laurel) and Gary Arthur Community Center (2400 Route 97 in Cooksville). District boxes are available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. The box at the Gary Arthur Community Center is available when the center is open to the public: Monday-Saturday 7am-pm; Sunday 9am-6pm and closed on holidays.

## "Guaranteed Ride Home"



A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the MD Department of Transportation. To be eligible to participate in the "Guaranteed Ride Home" program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

## [FREE HCPD & HC DrugFree Magnets](#)

HC DrugFree is proud to partner with the Howard County Police Department and the Howard County Health Department to keep important phone numbers on your refrigerator or file cabinet. Email [admin@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:admin@hcdrugfree.org) or call 443-325-0040 to request your magnet today! [Click here](#) to read the magnet.

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below, you will find helpful links for parents and youth. I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors, and most importantly, your children.

- **4H Program:** For Ages 8-18; Clover 4-H for youth ages 5-7. Meetings held across County. To find a club, click [here](#) or call 410-313-1906.
- **Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment at **Columbia Art Center**. Meets **1st & 2nd Mondays**. Registration/fees may apply. Call 410-992-3726.
- **Youth & Teen Center (YTC):** A Multi-purpose place for teens to socialize & participate in recreational & educational programs. 410-992-3726
- **CA's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee :** Meets **3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8pm**, The Youth & Teen Center, **The Other Barn**. Call 410-992-3726 or email [CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org) for more info.
- **Howard County Library** . Many [classes and events](#) for youth of all ages.
  - Homework Club.** Come after school for a snack while working on homework in a relaxed setting. M-Th 3-4pm (school days only). Ages 11-17. No registration required. East Columbia Branch location.
  - Math Lab.** Struggling with Math? Bring your problems in and get help including all levels of math up to calculus. No problems? Don't worry, there are various math games and puzzles you can solve that require logic and critical thinking. Registration is required. Ages 11-18. Register [online](#) or call 410-313-0760.
- **Voices For Change:** Email **Meg Mekelburg** for more info [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net)

## Recreation & Parks Deer Management Program for 2015-2016

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks announced its schedule of managed deer hunts for **2015-2016**. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed [online](#). For more details, call 410-313-1675.

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| • Blandair Park ( <b>north of Route 175 only</b> ; Bow Hunting) | <b>February 18</b>     |
| • Carrs Mill and Zirn Property (Sharpshooting)                  | <b>March 15 and 17</b> |
| • Centennial Park (Sharpshooting)                               | <b>March 1 and 3</b>   |
| • Fulton South Park (Sharpshooting)                             | <b>March 10</b>        |
| • Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (Bow & Shotgun)            | <b>February 25</b>     |
| • River's Edge Open Space (Sharpshooting)                       | <b>March 10</b>        |
| • Robinson Nature Center (Sharpshooting)                        | <b>March 8</b>         |
| • Savage Park (Sharpshooting)                                   | <b>March 8 and 10</b>  |
| • Schooley Mill Park (Shotgun Hunting)                          | <b>February 16</b>     |
| • West Friendship Park (Bow & Shotgun)                          | <b>February 23</b>     |
| • Worthington Park (Sharpshooting)                              | <b>March 1 and 3</b>   |

## Feed The Green Bin Program

According to a recent Howard County study, almost 30% of what we send to the landfill could be composted and turned into a valuable product! Interested households in certain areas (who receive County yard trim collection) can participate in Feed The Green Bin program. This new program collects the same types of material you have always set at the curb, the difference is a separate container! Participants receive a special food scrap/yard trim cart that is emptied weekly. If you're in the collection area and want another green cart, here's the [form](#) to purchase additional carts. Please remember that the green carts are to be used for food scraps and yard trim ONLY. To sign-up, click [here](#).



## Financial Assistance Corner

While we continue to move towards an economic recovery, many residents are faced with the reality of living on either a limited or fixed income. Others are looking for ways to take advantage of tax credits so they can free up funds they can use for often the basics in life including housing, utilities, and food for their children and themselves. They may use that capital to invest in their future, or their children's future education. No matter the reason, the County offers several tax credits for you to take advantage of for varying circumstances. Please check below or visit our [Department of Finance's](#) website for a more complete [list](#).

**TAX CREDITS:** For your convenience, below are several tax credits many residents have benefited from. Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbors so we can educate our community together about the tax credits that may be available to them, if they qualify.

**Livable Home Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Senior Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

**Homeowners Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

**Homestead Tax Credit:** <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

**Energy Conservation Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

**Daycare Provider Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit:**  
<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:**  
<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Trash Collection Fee Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

## Free Financial Coaching!

MyBudgetCoach was launched by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families & individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

If interested in participating, please contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at [petakl@makingchangecenter.org](mailto:petakl@makingchangecenter.org). MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit [www.makingchangecenter.org](http://www.makingchangecenter.org).

## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency that empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter & outreach services. They provide programs & services including 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter & Day Resource Center.

The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit the Grassroots website [online](#) at The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.



## Howard County Safety—Helpful Hints



- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784
- Want to make an anonymous tip? (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.) Call 410-313-7867 or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email [KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov)
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips are available [online](#).
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov) or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interested in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch Program? Contact your [local community resources officer](#).

## Give the Gift of Independence

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, as well as evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers may simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices, and

daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and we encourage you to bring your children along for a wonderful experience.



For more information, contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer, or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org).

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents +62

The HC Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll-free number: 1-800-506-5806.

## Recycling...Do's and Don'ts

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or go [online](#).

## Howard County Support Groups

In Howard County, we are blessed to have a large network of ongoing support groups available to residents. Most, if not all are co-sponsored by Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) and that information is provided below. Please note that support group information is subject to change. Before attending a meeting, verify information and location by calling the contact information listed. For more details, meeting locations or information on additional support groups, go [online](#).

### Adult Type 1 Diabetes Support Group

301-490-0029

### Alcoholics Anonymous

410-663-1922

### Al-Anon (Families & Friends of Alcoholics)

410-832-7094

### Alateen (Teenagers w/ alcoholic friend or family member)

1-888-4AL-ANON

### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Groups (Pre-screening req'd)

410-313-9744

### Bariatric Support Group

410-550-0409

### Bereavement Support Group (Families & families who lost loved ones at HCGH)

410-740-7898

### Better Breathing Club (In conjunction w/ ALA)

443-718-3000 (Carol Zemanick)

### Breast Cancer Support Group (Registration req'd)

410-740-5858

### Breastfeeding Support Group (Wed 12:30-2:30pm)

410-740-7830

### Caregiver's Support Group

410-740-5858

### Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance of HoCo

443-995-8351

### Gilchrist Hospice Care, Howard County

410-730-5072

### HC Diabetes Education & Support Group

443-718-3007

### Living with Cancer

410-740-5858

### Lupus Mid-Atlantic

410-363-3560

### Narcotics Anonymous

1-800-317-3222

### Men's Prostate Group

202-253-1025

### Parkinson Support Group

301-490-7288

### Pulmonary Support Group

443-718-3000

### Rising Hope Support Group (Parents who lost a baby)

410-740-7845

### Stroke Support Group

410-884-4641

### Trigeminal Support Group

410-465-0415

### We Thrive (Cancer Support)

410-740-5858

## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, [visit our website](#). If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information. For more information, please email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call 410-313-2005.

*"Changing the world is up to us. If each of us tries, the next generation may see a happier, more peaceful world emerge."*  
~ Dalai Lama

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